

# Floodplain Management and the State's Role:



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# Montana Floodplain Program Provides



- Mapping
- Community Assistance Visits
- Ordinance Review and Assistance
- General Technical Assistance
- Training
- Outreach
- Floodplain Administrators Database
- Floodplain Website

# Program Staff

## Water Operations – Floodplain Program



Laurence Siroky, Bureau Chief

Traci Sears, NFIP  
Coordinator- Unit Supervisor

Steve Story, Floodplain  
Engineer – Unit Supervisor

Mary Guokas,  
Outreach  
Coordinator

Bri Shipman,  
Training  
Coordinator

Tiffany Lyden,  
Regulations  
Specialist

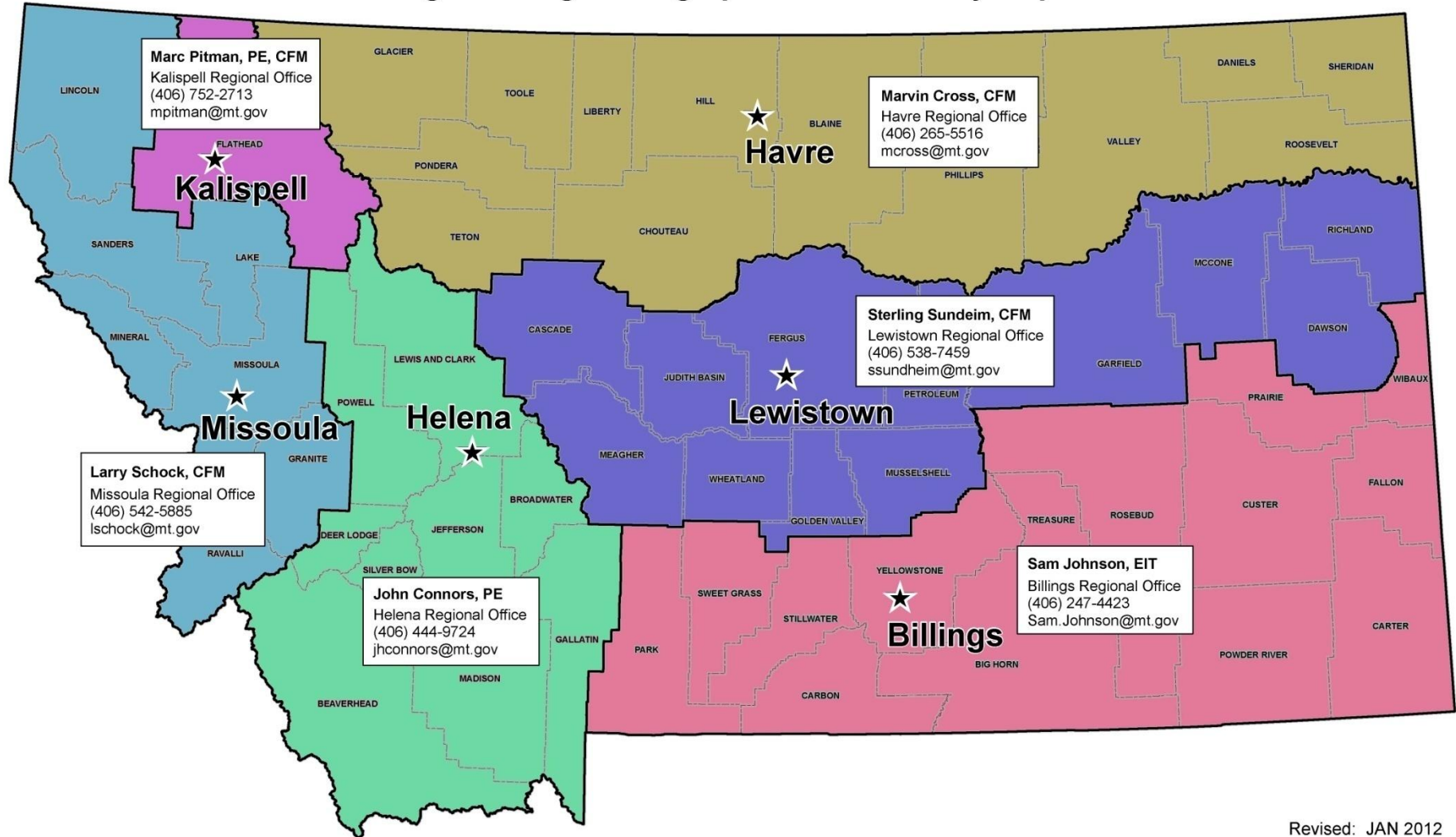
Mary Gibson,  
MAP MOD  
Specialist

Dave Amman,  
Water  
Measurement

Chad Hill,  
Chief  
Engineer  
Specialist

# DNRC FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM

## Regional Engineering Specialist Boundary Map



Revised: JAN 2012

# State Program



## DNRC Floodplain Program Overview

Federally Funded:



- Community Assistance Program (CAP)

- ✦ CAP Coordinator – Traci Sears
- ✦ Training Officer – Bri Shipman
- ✦ Regulation Specialist – Tiffany Lyden
- ✦ Outreach – Mary Guokas

- MapMod/Risk MAP Program

- ✦ Risk MAP Coordinator – Mary Gibson
- ✦ Outreach – Mary Guokas/Tiffany Lyden
- ✦ Engineering/GIS Support– Chad Hill



# State Program



## DNRC Floodplain Program Overview

### State Funded:



- State Engineer Position– Steve Story
- Regional Engineering Specialists (share w/other State programs)
- In-House GIS Support (share w/other State programs)
- Water Measurement – Dave Amman

# Floodplain Management and the State's Role



- Enable communities with the legal authorities needed to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations.
- Establish minimum State regulatory standards consistent with the NFIP.
- Provide program and technical assistance to participating local governments.
- Coordinate activities of various State agencies that affect the NFIP.



# Floodplain Regulations: Community Ordinances



- Must meet or exceed Federal requirements specified in 44 CFR.

code of  
federal regulations

- Must meet or exceed State requirements of the Montana Administrative Rules.





# State Regulations



- MT CODE ANNOTATED (MCA) - STATUTES: laws passed by the legislature. All changes must go through the legislative process and be passed into law before they become effective.

## Montana Floodplain and Floodway Management Act

- MCA Title 76, Chapter 5



# DNRC Engineering Technical Assistance



- Program Description

Complimentary engineering technical support offered to communities (counties and municipalities) that participate in the NFIP throughout Montana.

- Purpose

Provide technical assistance to communities with limited resources and expertise to help them evaluate sufficiency of floodplain submittals and make sound floodplain management decisions.

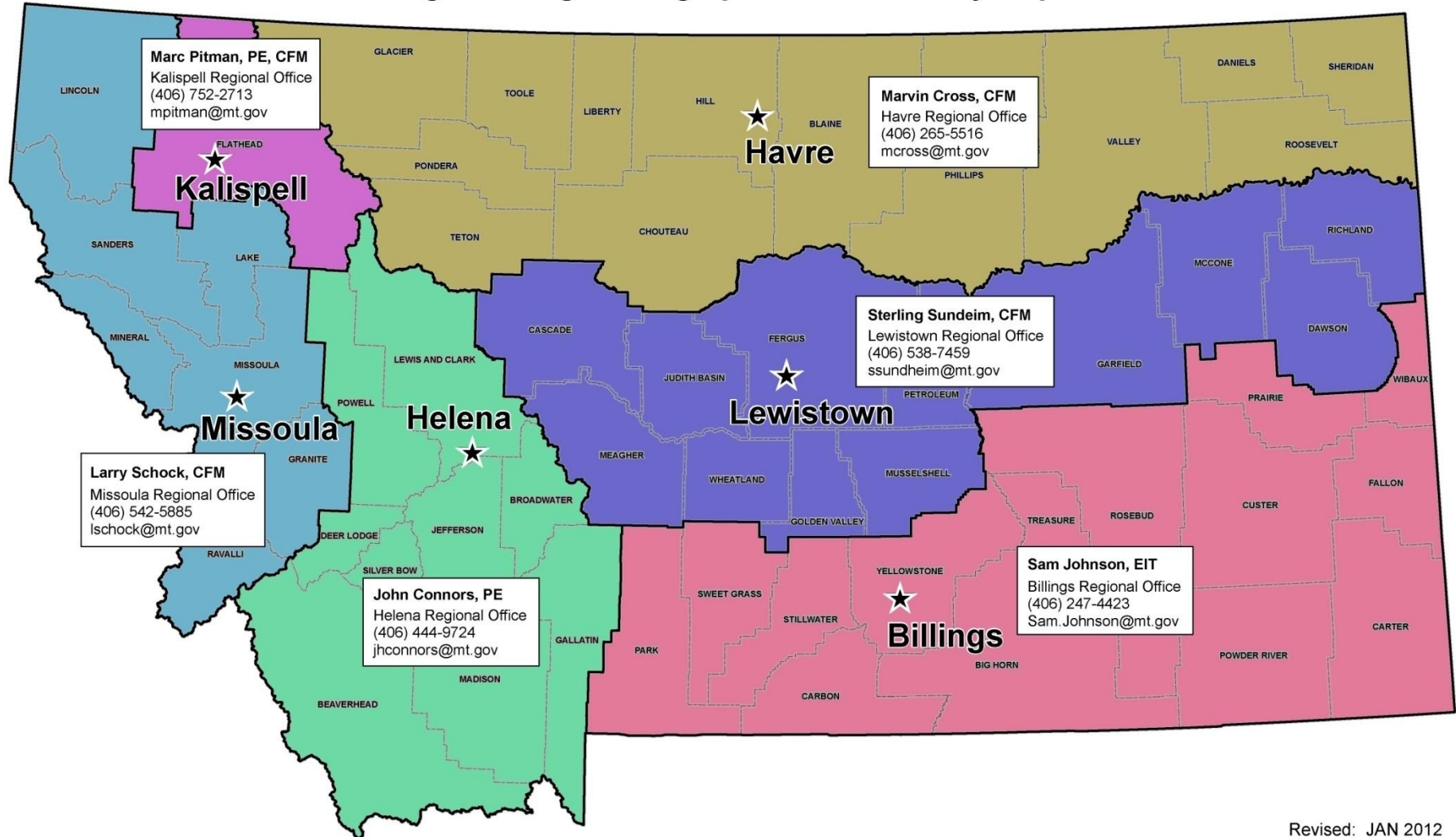
# General Technical Assistance Provided



Floodplain related submittals that involve scientific and engineering analysis, including technical reviews of:

- Floodplain Development Permit Applications,
- Subdivision Floodplain delineations and Flood Hazard Evaluations,
- Letter of Map Changes (LOMCs) – CLOMR, LOMR, LOMA, etc.,
- Floodplain Studies,
- Proposed projects near or within a regulated floodplain,
- Variances, General Consultation, & Site Visits

**DNRC FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM**  
**Regional Engineering Specialist Boundary Map**



Revised: JAN 2012

# DNRC Engineering Technical Assistance



## Program Protocol:

- Community responsible to evaluate completeness of submittal and coordinate with applicant. DNRC will offer additional training and tools (checklist) to help FPAs.
- DNRC comments & recommendations – provided in itemized list format for tracking multiple review exchanges.
- A maximum of 3 review exchanges will be provided by DNRC per application. After 3<sup>rd</sup> exchange, community shall issue, deny, or solicit services from 3<sup>rd</sup> party at their own cost.

# Floodplain Training - Provided by the State




- **DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar**  
*(Annually - Every Summer)*
- **AMFM**  
*(Annually – Every Spring)*
- **Community Specific Training**  
*(When needed)*
- **Regional Training Events**  
*(Every two years or when needed)*



# Training Topics



- 
- A vertical decorative element on the left side of the list, consisting of a series of blue chevrons pointing downwards, stacked vertically.
- Floodplain Management
  - Insurance
  - Legal Workshops
  - Mitigation and Disaster Recovery
  - Engineering and Surveying
  - Permitting
  - GIS
  - CRS
  - Silver Jackets



# Floodplain Outreach Activities

Newsletters

First Contact for new FPAs

Community Events

DNRC Floodplain Website

Outreach Material

Attending Various Conferences and Workshops



## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Serving Montana's Communities Since 1974



Disaster and Emergency Services.....	2
Rebuilding Your Home After the Storm.....	3
FEMA Public Assistance Speeds Recovery to Huntley Project.....	4
Covered by Insurance in Roundup.....	6
Floodplain Management at DES Conference.....	6
Montana's Home to Flood Service that Serve Nation.....	7
Floods and Montana Department of Transportation.....	8
Getting Help: Post Disaster.....	9

Sun River - photo by Mark Bosack

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## HIGHGROUND

September 2011

This newsletter and other state floodplain management activities are funded, in part, through grants from FEMA.

### Floodplain Management Payoffs

By Traci Sears, CFM, Montana NFIP Coordinator

Montana flooding in 2011 was widespread, deserving of a Highground issue devoted exclusively to flood related topics. At the onset, the National Weather Service, local DES personnel, local floodplain managers and neighborly volunteers played key roles. Read on for an assessment of post-flood considerations.

Flooding in the Town of Sun River. Photo Copyright Great Falls Police Department.



Impact from floodwaters was high and would have been higher were it not for the practice and implementation of the floodplain management program in communities across the state. It's a given that floodplains are at a high risk of flooding. The threat became real in many Montana floodplains in 2011 as a result of saturated ground, precipitation and snow runoff.

Elevating or building outside of flood prone areas are two ways to lessen potential flood damage to buildings. These are common practices in the local management of floodplains. Pictured above is the Sun River school gymnasium, which was elevated by adding fill prior to construction. During high water this past summer the gym remained above floodwaters.

In this case, elevated ground kept the gym outside of harm's way. Filling to elevate roads may also provide safe and dry access to homes during flooding.

However, fill may not always be the best answer, especially in areas with

extensive development. Fill adds volume to the floodplain and during a flood, extra volume displaces floodwater. Essentially this can raise the height of floodwater. Avoiding fill through the construction of raised stem walls is often a feasible option. Promoting stem wall construction was done by the 2009 Montana legislature when it removed one word from the law (766-5-402, MCA): "fill". Previously the MCA stated, "residential structures are constructed on fill such that the lowest floor elevation (including basements) is 2 feet above the 100-year flood elevation".

For floodplain management payoffs to occur in future floods, communities need to continue enforcing local floodplain management ordinances, consider raised stem wall construction and keep current on the latest floodplain management issues. Thanks to those who contributed to lessening the devastating impacts of the 2011 floods.



# Thank you!



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